



**CALFED
BAY-DELTA
PROGRAM**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PUBLIC MEETING ADDRESSES WATER ISSUES

SACRAMENTO -- The CALFED Bay-Delta Program will hold an open house public meeting in Fresno Wednesday, November 12, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Ramada Inn, 324 E. Shaw Ave. Area residents are encouraged to come and learn about efforts to improve the ecosystem and water management of the Bay-Delta system, as well as the specific implications of these efforts for those in the Bay area.

"Communities in the Central Valley have a big stake in the Bay-Delta system," said Lester Snow, executive director of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program. "Farming and urban communities depend on a reliable, affordable and high quality water supply for their livelihoods. That's why it's so critical they be involved in the decision-making process."

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program will soon release a draft programmatic Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement identifying a potential solution to problems associated with the Bay-Delta system. Public input is critical to the development of an equitable and feasible solution.

The informational meetings will feature an open-house session from 5:30 to 7 p.m. during which

CALFED Agencies

California	The Resources Agency	Federal	Environmental Protection Agency	Department of Agriculture
	Department of Fish and Game		Department of the Interior	
	Department of Water Resources		Fish and Wildlife Service	
	California Environmental Protection Agency		Bureau of Reclamation	
	State Water Resources Control Board		U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	
				Department of Commerce
				Natural Resources Conservation Service
				National Marine Fisheries Service

Program staff will be available to answer questions and provide information to those in attendance. A presentation will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m., giving a general overview and update of the Program's progress as well as an opportunity for the public to comment on issues they think are important.

A series of formal public hearings will also be held upon release of the draft programmatic Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement. The schedule for those meetings will be announced later this year.

The Bay-Delta system, an intricate web of waterways created at the junction of the San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, is a critically important part of California's natural environment and economy. It supplies drinking water for more than 22 million Californians, irrigation water for more than four million acres of the world's most productive farmland, and supports 120 fish and wildlife species; some found nowhere else on the planet.

For the past several decades, the Bay-Delta system has struggled to meet the competing demands of the environment and water users, while maintaining good water quality and a levee system that protects local towns and infrastructure from flooding. Today the system is not adequately meeting any of these needs.

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program was initiated in 1995 by Governor Pete Wilson and the Clinton Administration to address the environmental and water management issues associated with the Bay-Delta system.

CALFED is made up of technical experts from various state and federal agencies, and given direction by the policy leadership of those agencies, as well as a federally chartered public advisory committee. In addition, interested constituencies and the general public have participated in numerous technical and public workshops since the Program got underway in early 1995.

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The lead agencies participating in CALFED include: California Resources Agency, California Department of Water Resources, California Department of Fish and Game, California Environmental Protection Agency, California State Water Resources Control Board, U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

For further information about the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, please call (916) 657-2666 or visit its website, <http://calfed.ca.gov>.

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The attached news release was distributed on October 20, 1997, to the following media in the Fresno area:

Print

Advance-Register
Arvin Tiller
Bakersfield Californian
California Advocate
Chowchilla News
Clovis Independent
Corcoran Journal
Daily Independent
Daily Midway Driller
Delano Record
Delhi Express
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Kaweah Commonwealth, the
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Kern Valley Sun
Lemoore Advance
Lindsay Gazette
Los Banos Enterprise
Los Banos Enterprise
Madera Tribune
Mammoth Times Weekly
Mariposa Gazette
Merced County Times
Merced Sun-Star
Modesto Bee, the
Mojave Desert News
Mountain Enterprise, the
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